

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A skin collagen production promoter comprising, as an active ingredient, a milk-derived basic protein fraction and/or a basic peptide fraction obtained by degradation of the milk-derived basic protein fraction with a protease.

2. (original) A skin collagen production promoter according to claim 1, wherein the milk-derived basic protein fraction comprises a fraction that has an amino acid composition containing 15% by weight or more of a basic amino acid.

3. (currently amended) A skin collagen production promoter according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the milk-derived basic protein fraction comprises a fraction obtained by: adsorbing a basic protein by contacting milk or a milk-derived material with a cation exchange resin; and then eluting the fraction adsorbed to the resin with an eluent having a salt concentration of 0.1 to 1 M.

4. (currently amended) A food or beverage product for promoting skin collagen production, comprising the milk-derived basic protein fraction and/or basic peptide fraction according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 incorporated therein.

5. (currently amended) A cosmetic for promoting skin collagen production, comprising the milk-derived basic protein fraction and/or basic peptide fraction according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 incorporated therein.